

August 11, 1937.

Circular Letter No. 6.

SUBJECT: ELECTIVE COURSE IN SECONDARY ENGLISH.

TO: Superintendents of Schools and High School Principals
of Accredited Private Secondary Schools.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

As already announced on pages 2 and 3 of our Circular Letter No. 4, of July 23, the eight courses in Secondary English listed below will be offered this year as electives. Each course will be known by its own title and will carry with it a credit of one half unit.

Principals are hereby urged to see that notice of the above courses is brought before the students at once and that as many sections as possible are organized.

Each section in any of the above courses will be organized with not fewer than 10 students, and no student will be allowed to elect more than one course at a time. Allowance for the organization of smaller sections may be made in the case of the small high schools, but permission to that effect should be first requested from this office.

The instructors to be assigned to these courses should be carefully selected, and notification should be sent to this office at once in case there is no suitable instructor for a course for which there is an unusual demand.

COURSES

(1) MOTION PICTURE APPRECIATION:

The basic purpose of this course is to promote familiarity with spoken English and to provide a standard of good drama, fine acting, and superior production by which the students could continue to judge motion pictures.

(2) MAGAZINE READING:

The purpose of this course is to offer a practical use of English by encouraging the students to develop a taste for the better English magazines. The students will examine the higher-class periodicals and newspapers, and will learn to distinguish between a good magazine and a poor one. It is our aim to interest the student in such reading so that he will continue after he has left school. This course should provide the student with a standard that will enable him to select his reading matter wisely.

(3) PUBLIC SPEAKING:

This course is one of the most valuable of all these elective courses because of its practical use of spoken English. The class may be conducted as a Literary Society, with the students participating in some such program as the following: (a) Ordinary audience reading (b) Interpretative oral reading (c) Declamation of prose and poetry selections (d) Reading of original essays (e) Original orations (f) Extemporaneous speaking on topics of the day (g) Symposiums and debates (h) Games and songs (to make the meetings more interesting.)

It is suggested that two separate sections of this course be organized if the enrollment is large enough, so that there may be a wholesome rivalry between them specially as regards items b, c, e, f, and g, above. If there is only one section organized and the enrollment permits, it may be divided into two societies to provide an incentive for competition within the section.

(4) DRAMATICS:

The aim of this course is to provide a practical application of spoken English. It is suggested that this section include the study of the drama, the presentation of plays, the dramatization of short stories, and the writing and presenting of original plays.

Because of the fact that the entire course is to be planned by the teacher, he should have some knowledge of acting and producing, in addition to a substantial literary background.

(5) WORLD LITERATURE:

The aim of this course is to familiarize the student with some of the choice examples of the different types of literature. The course will include several selections of each classification, such as drama, epic, novel, history, oratory, biography, and the various forms of poetry.

The teacher of this section should be one who has an extensive knowledge of world literature, and who is capable of presenting the course in a manner that will enable the students to enjoy the study of literature.

(6) JOURNALISM:

This course offers a very interesting outlet for a practical use of English. The class would include the study of the fundamentals of journalistic writing, and the practical application of this study. If possible, a school

paper might be published by the class, or, if that is not expedient, the Journalism students of several schools might collaborate in a publication of some kind. In addition, there could be feature writing for school magazines, and perhaps some competitive writing, the winning manuscripts to be published in a local newspaper.

As the entire plan of this course is left to the discretion of the teacher, he should be selected with great care. It is essential that he have both a complete literary background, and some talent and experience in original writing.

(7) CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE:

This course is designed to give the student an insight into the wealth of today's literature, and to teach him how to select his current reading material. The class will study short stories, novelettes, poetry, plays, biography, and essays, in such a way as to give the student a standard for selecting good literature.

It is essential that the teacher of this course be one who has studied extensively all types of literature, both modern and classical, and who is especially interested in the writings of today.

(8) JUNIOR COURSE IN THE SURVEY OF AMERICAN AND ENGLISH LITERATURE:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize the student with the historical background of the various periods of English and American development, so that he may have a better understanding of the literature of those periods. In the history of England's literature, the class will start with the early English period, and follow the development of literature through Chaucer, Shakespeare, and up to the modern time. Similarly, they will study the history of American literature from the Colonial Period through the Revolution and on up to the beginning of the twentieth century.

The teacher of this course should be one who is interested in history as well as literature, and who is able to correlate the two subjects so that literature will be more interesting to the students because of its historical background.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

JOSE M. GALLARDO
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION